

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 7.40 pm

AREA PANEL 3 (ABBEY, ARBORETUM AND NORMANTON) 31 JANUARY 2007

Present: Councillor Williamson (Chair)
Councillors Afzal, Dhindsa, Hussain, R Khan, Lowe and
Nath, S Khan

Apologies: Councillor Mitchell

Derby City Council and other officers:

Sarah Dosunmu	-	Area Panel Manager
Gemma Barlow	-	Constitutional Services Officer
Jane Coates	-	Electoral Services Officer
Cherry Hayes	-	Team Administrator
Jonathan Guest	-	Director of Regeneration and Community
Pop Gill	-	Neighbourhood Manager (Normanton)
Tracy Arnold	-	Neighbourhood Manager (Austin)
Kerry Gjokaj	-	Community Development Officer (Austin)
Verica Kecovitch	-	Community Development Officer (Stockbrook)
Shaun Shelton	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Andrew Auld	-	Head of Communications

13 members of the public were in attendance.

42/06 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mitchell.

43/06 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

44/06 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dhindsa declared a personal interest in minute number 50/06 -
Petition – Removal of Road Humps, Browning Street, Upperdale Road and
Stanhope Street – Normanton as he was the lead petitioner.

45/06 Minutes

The minutes of the Area Panel 3 meeting held on 15 November 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

46/06 Chairs Report

The Chair provided a verbal report on current activities, progress on projects and successes in Area Panel 3.

Agreed to note the report.

47/06 Let's Talk Budget

The Panel considered received a presentation from Councillor Williamson and Jonathan Guest – Corporate Director of Regeneration – that provided information on the proposed Council budget for 2007/08.

Councillor Williamson reported that the Council had achieved significant efficiency savings throughout the 2006/07 year and that the aim for 2007/08 was a 3.5% efficiency saving and 10% efficiencies over the next three years in order to protect front line services. It was stressed that Council Tax in Derby was the lowest in the East Midlands. The city has a higher than average number of dwellings in band A which restricts the amount of income generated through Council Tax.

A member of the public asked how the reduction in the number of staff in the Environmental Health and Trading Standards section would impact on the healthy eating standards being achieved? Councillor Williamson responded that the posts being cut were mainly those that had been vacant for some time. He acknowledged that the Environmental Health team did vital work in the City.

A member of the public asked what were the proposed running costs for QUAD?

It was reported that the final decision on the Council Tax increase would not be made until the Full Council meeting in March 2007. Members of the public were invited to make comments on the proposed budget and what they felt the Council tax should be set at on the website.

Resolved to note the presentation.

48/06 Petitions

To consider petitions received since the last meeting

Parking on Church Street

The Panel noted the receipt of a petition relating to parking on Church Street.

Resolved to note receipt of the petition and agreed to investigate issues and report back to a future meeting of the Panel.

To consider responses to petitions received

a) Holmes Street – Request to improve parking and road safety

The Panel considered a report from the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation that detailed a response to a petition requesting investigation into the parking situation and road safety on Holmes Street. It was reported that the fire service considered that a fire engine would be able to enter and drive through the street without difficulty, providing that vehicles park sensibly. It was noted that the fire service intended to put advisory posters up in the area regarding responsible parking.

Resolved

- 1. to note the report and support the proposed action from the Fire Service to reinforce the need to park sensibly**
- 2. to take no further action and note that the issue had been raised for investigation within the Normanton Road area study.**

b) Request to tackle anti social behaviour on St Chad's Road, Byron Street, Stonehill Road and Cromwell Road

The Panel considered a report from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Social Cohesion and Housing Strategy that detailed a response to a petition that requested that anti social behaviour – ASB - on St Chad's Road, Byron Street, Stonehill Road and Cromwell Road was tackled.

It was reported that initial investigations had shown that there was not a major problem with anti social behaviour in the area and therefore the ASB team did not consider a CCTV camera suitable. BT had been contacted to pursue the barring of incoming calls to the phone boxes on St Chad's Road/Cromwell Road.

The Normanton Neighbourhood team are now prioritising action in the area following issues raised at local neighbourhood forum meetings. The team have held street briefings in partnership with the police and fire service with local residents and are actively reporting back progress and gathering issues and needs of residents through the neighbourhood forum meetings in the area.

Resolved to note the report and the actions taken to address the concerns expressed by the residents.

c) Request to tackle drug dealing, vandalism, theft and mugging in the Moore Street area

The Panel considered a report from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood,

Social Cohesion and Housing Strategy that detailed a response to a petition regarding drug dealing, vandalism, theft and muggings.

It was reported that replacement white lighting for the lighting columns on Belgrave Street had been ordered and that incoming calls to the telephone boxes on Mill Hill Road had been barred.

The Normanton Neighbourhood team will continue to keep residents and the lead petitioner informed through neighbourhood forum meetings.

Resolved to note the report and the actions taken to address the concerns expressed by the residents.

49/06 Report from Normanton Neighbourhood Team

The Panel received a verbal report that provided details of action and activity undertaken by the Normanton neighbourhood team.

50/06 Area Panel Updates

The Panel considered an update report on the progress of community issues raised at the last meeting. The report included details of the issues raised, proposed actions, progress to date and the City Council officer responsible.

Highways – between the Spot and Bradshaw Way - Arboretum

A member of the public considered that the Council was obliged to make sure that roads were serviceable at all times and that it shouldn't take two years to complete works.

The surface of London Road was due for reconstruction early in 2007. The road surface was due for renewal before the construction of the Westfield Shopping centre began. The council decided to carry out minor temporary works and then reconstruct following completion of the building project. This avoided having a new road surface damaged and excavated as a result of the building works.

There have been occasions when there has been soiled debris on the London Road and Osmaston Road, however the building contractor has maintained a mechanical sweeper and washer vehicle to continually clean the roads in the area. This has been at the expense of the developer. Occasionally, usually during very poor weather conditions the sweeper vehicle has not been able to carry out effective cleaning. During these periods we have instructed the developer to carry out additional cleaning at nights. The developer has covered again all costs.

The resident responded that she was not satisfied with the response and requested another response to the next meeting. Sarah Dosunmu agreed to talk to the resident at the end of the meeting to discuss their issues in full.

Petition – Removal of Road Humps, Browning Street, Upperdale Road and Stanhope Street – Normanton

Councillor Dhindsa, the lead petitioner, considered that the response to the petition was not what the Panel endorsed or what the petitioners want and requested a further response from the Individual Cabinet Member.

It was noted that a report relating to the petition was presented to the Individual Cabinet Member meeting on 13 December. It was resolved that:

1. The request for the removal of traffic calming is refused.
2. The speed cushions on Upperdale Road and Stanhope Street are reshaped to lessen their impact on vehicles while retaining the road safety benefits that they bring.

No funding is available in the current financial year to undertake this reshaping. The removal of road humps on Browning Street, Upperdale Road and Stanhope Street was highlighted at the last Area Panel 3 meeting as one of their priorities for possible inclusion in the 2007/8 Highways and Transport programme. Officers are currently working to finalise this programme, which will be considered by Cabinet in February 2007. The final programme will be presented to all area panels in the March round.

Hedges and Tree Boundaries

Sarah Dosunmu confirmed that the residents that were required to complete work to their properties had a time frame to complete the required work.

51/06 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

Street Lighting

A member of the public asked what progress had been made to repair the street lighting in the city.

Jonathan Guest responded that there had been a delay due to having to find additional funding. It was hoped that the contract for the works would be signed by the end of the financial year or at the start of 2007/08.

Green Lane

A resident asked for advice from Cllr Hussain regarding the unfriendly atmosphere and negative effect at the top of Green Lane. The resident stated that they travel to Derby city centre on this route, sometimes in the evening. It used to be a bright and cheerful with people using the metro Cinema, lit bright and cheerful. Now it is empty. Next to it is the derelict building awaiting demolition and soon to be an assessment centre. The resident wanted to know if we can expect any positives at all.

Homezone survey

A resident reported that Morrisons had sent a letter to all residents on Cameron Road giving advance notice about works relating to painting of lines. Residents were asked to move their cars, however, on the day in question Morrisons did not actually carry out the work. When queried, Morrisons replied that they had not undertaken the work as cars had been parked on the road however; the resident stated that this was not the case. He stated that he was appalled by the level and quality of the workmanship of Morrisons.

The resident also raised the issue about being invited to complete a survey. Finally the resident requested further information on Atkins Consultants who are carrying out the survey work and he wanted to know why the City Council could not undertake the work rather than the Consultants.

Area Panel 3 Start Time

A resident requested that the Panel consider changing the time of the meetings to 6.30 pm or later. The resident stated that it is difficult for those who work and if you are travelling across the ward to attend meetings, particularly for non car users.

Cllr Nath explained that the times of meetings were agreed a year in advance so it would not be possible to move the times for the rest of the year. It would be considered as it was important to make meetings as accessible as possible for all residents and Cllr Nath cited the experience of disabled residents.

Parking on Balaclava Road

A resident requested that double yellow lines be installed at the traffic lights on Balaclava Road and there are problems with congestion and inconsiderate parking.

Councillor Williamson responded that the issue would be looked into with potentially an increase in patrols by parking wardens and the appropriate enforcement action taken.

Older People – Fear of Crime

A member of the public raised concerns about the increased number of burglaries and the fear of crime within the older community. It was asked what had been done to address the national target of deprived areas dealing with the fear of crime and burglary in Normanton. The resident also asked what services were available for older people: security measures, warden patrols, advocacy and police measures.

52/06 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2006/07

A report of the Director of Derby Community Safety Partnership was considered which set out details of the Area Panel Budget Proposals 2006/07 and a summary of applications funded for the current financial year. There were no new applications for funding.

The Panel were asked to confirm that the Derby West Indian Community

Association were allocated £1,500 at the meeting on 21 June 2006, despite the minutes stating £1000.

Resolved

1. to note the report
2. to confirm that the Derby West Indian Community Association were allocated £1,500 at the meeting on 21 June 2006.

53/06 Health Briefing From Greater Derby and Central Derby Primary Care Trusts

A briefing paper on Health Services was considered.

Agreed to note the contents of the briefing paper.

54/06 Area Panel Review Update

The Panel considered a report from the Head of Stronger and Safer Communities Unit that provided an update on the Area Panel review. The report highlighted the forthcoming Open Space event which is a means of local residents contributing to the review of area panels.

Agreed to note the report.

55/06 Events Diary

The Area Panel 3 Events Diary was considered.

Agreed to note the contents of the events diary.

56/06 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was agreed that Councillor Williamson would be the Chair of the next meeting, to be held at the Voice Box, Forman Street. Councillor Afzal would be the Vice Chair.

MINUTES END